

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /087 W

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P 161220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5995

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SP

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF ALGERIAN ICJ PRESENTATION

REF: RABAT 3447 (NOTAL)

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AGAIN RELIED ON AFP FOR ITS JULY 16 REPORTING OF PREVIOUS DAY'S ICJ PROCEEDINGS. ARTICLE REPORTED BEDJAoui AS SAYING THAT, AT MOMENT OF COLONIZATION OF SAHARA, MAURITANIA ITSELF WAS CONSIDERED "TERRA NULLIUS" AND MOROCCO WAS ON VERGE OF DISMEMBERMENT. ALTHOUGH BEDJAoui WENT ON TO ARGUE THAT CONCEPT OF "TERRA NULLIUS" IN ITSELF INVALID AND TOOL OF COLONIALISM, HIS PRESENTATION APPARENTLY BOILED DOWN TO CONTENTION THAT SAHARA WAS NEVER WITHOUT A MASTER, BUT THAT MASTER WAS GREATER ISLAMIC COMMUNITY AND NEVER MOROCCO OR MAURITANIA. AS REPORTED IN AFP ITEM, PRESENTATION DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CALL FOR SELF-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETERMINATION FOR SAHARA BUT STRONGLY SUGGESTED IT AS LOGICAL

CONSEQUENCE. ARTICLE'S HEADLINE, "BEDJAoui DENIES EXISTENCE OF MOROCCO AS A STATE", DID NOT PRECISELY REFLECT POINT WHICH BEDJAoui SEEMED TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE IN ARTICLE BUT ITS BITTERNESS IS ONLY SEMI-OFFICIAL COMMENTARY YET.

2. L'OPINION REPORT FROM OWN CORRESPONDENT, UNDER UNCONTENTIOUS HEADLINE, WAS MORE DETAILED AND HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ALGERIAN REASONING AND MOTIVES. ARTICLE STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT BEDJAoui AND ALGERIA IN PROCESS OF MAKING CASE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, WITH INDEPENDENCE AS OPTION, RELYING PRINCIPALLY ON UN RESOLUTION 1514.

3. COMMENT: ALGERIAN PRESENTATION GOING DOWN HARD IN RABAT. GOM, HOWEVER, MAY BE ABLE TO FIND COMFORT IN ALGERIAN REJECTION OF "TERRA NULLIUS" CONCEPT, WHICH ANSWERS FIRST PART OF QUESTION BEFORE COURT AND SEEMS TO LEAVE DOOR OPEN TO CONTENTION THAT GOM-GIRM TIES OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SAHARA ARE, IN FACT, HISTORICALLY DEMONSTRABLE. AS INDICATED REFTEL, GOM RESERVING FINAL POSITION UNTIL COMPLETION ALGERIAN PRESENTATION, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL OCCUR THIS AFTERNOON.

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